



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau

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World Wide Web: <http://nccic.org>

NCCIC

BOOK DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS to SUPPORT EARLY LITERACY

These programs distribute children's books (often at no cost) to parents in locations such as child care programs, hospitals, health clinics, doctors' offices, libraries, shelters, as well as their own homes. Often, books are distributed through programs offering services to low income families. Some book distribution programs provide specialized training for early childhood caregivers and teachers. Training generally includes information on how to make sharing books interesting; how to use reading to develop language skills; and how to promote parental book sharing and reading.

■ **Beginning with Books**

5920 Kirkwood Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412-361-8560

World Wide Web: <http://www.beginningwithbooks.org>

Beginning with Books distributes book packs through organizations that serve low-income families (for example, WIC, Head Start, and family support centers) through its Gift Book Program. It also provides parent counseling on reading and talking about books with their children. In 2002, they distributed 11,915 Gift Book packets (that's nearly 48,000 books) and worked with 20 different organizations. In addition, 3,500 books were given through the REAdy for Life program, and approximately 20,000 families received books and information on literacy from their medical provider. Beginning With Books has also created a training component to share their expertise in early literacy development. In addition to offering individualized workshops on a variety of topics, Beginning with Books provides an intensive six-month early literacy training and mentoring opportunity for staff of child care homes and early education centers. Information about training is available on the Web at <http://www.beginningwithbooks.org/prof.html>.

■ **Bonding With Baby Book Donation Program**

2048 Elm Street

Stratford, CT 06615

866-LAP-TIME or 203-378-6725

World Wide Web: <http://www.bondingwithbaby.org>

The Bonding With Baby Book Donation Program is designed to give all children an equal start by providing the Bonding With Baby board books free to disadvantaged families through nonprofit organizations. These books utilize a wordless format so parents of any background, skill, or language can "read" them with their children. They feature real life characters and culturally universal stories that can appeal to all parents. The illustrations offer "point and share" pictures that stimulate "give and take" interaction between parents and children. The Bonding With Baby Kit is currently being distributed free to over 11,000 families in the Healthy Families America Program in 12 States and the District of Columbia. In addition, a limited number of samples are provided free to other organizations, such as the Public Library Association and

Parents as Teachers. The Kit includes a four-book Bonding With Baby book set and an in-home instructional video for parents so they may learn privately at their own pace.

■ **Books for Babies/ Friends of Libraries USA (FOL/USA)**

48 Pilgord Lane
Glastonbury, CT 06033
860-633-5938

World Wide Web: <http://www.folusa.org/html/books4babieshome.html>

Books for Babies is a literacy program that acquaints parents of newborns with the important role they play in the development of their children. The project's goal is to help parents understand that by reading to their babies and by becoming regular library users themselves, they help their babies to develop language skills and start them on the path to success in reading and learning. Each Books for Babies packet includes the pamphlet titled *Babies Love Books, A Guide for Grown-ups*; a sturdy board book suitable for an infant; a booklet of fingerplays and games; tips on reading to children; the brochure titled *Raising a Reader, Raising a Writer* from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and Baby's First Library Card, which can be taken to a local library and exchanged for a real card.

■ **Books for Kids Foundation**

129 West 27th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001
212-252-9168

World Wide Web: <http://www.booksforkidsfoundation.org>

The mission of the Books for Kids Foundation is to promote literacy among children, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged children and youth. Books for Kids donates books, creates libraries, and participates in reading initiatives within community-based organizations, social service agencies, and schools. The Books for Kids national office serves the greater New York City area as well as communities throughout the United States, with local chapters serving the mid-Hudson Valley of New York, Arizona, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Southern California.

■ **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

The Dollywood Foundation
1020 Dollywood Lane
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
865-428-9604

World Wide Web: <http://www.dollywoodfoundation.com>

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, developed in 1995 for her hometown of Sevier County, Tennessee, has been replicated in communities across the United States. All children in the community are enrolled at birth or when they move into the community. Each month, from the day the child is born until their 5th birthday, a selected book arrives at the mailbox. The Dollywood Foundation has developed the delivery system, negotiated price, selected the publisher and the individual titles, and created registration and promotional materials. Local champions finance the cost of the books and the mailing. Local champions are businesses, individuals, United Way organizations, school systems, local and State governments, foundations, and nonprofit organizations.

The Governor's Books from Birth Foundation was created in Tennessee in May 2004, to partner with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Foundation to help make her prekindergarten literacy program available to all Tennessee children regardless of family income. The Foundation serves as a catalyst and tangible resource to local leaders seeking to establish their own countywide Imagination Library initiatives. The Foundation staff is charged with raising Statewide funds; administering the Imagination Library Statewide rollout; and providing support, training, and resources to county efforts. The Foundation is striving to partner with all 95 Tennessee counties by fall of 2005 in order to reach all 375,000 Tennessee children under the age of 5. The cost of the program is \$27.00 per child, per year, which includes 12 hardcover, age-appropriate books, postage, shipping, and handling. Additional information is available on the Web at <http://www.governorsfoundation.org/index.html>.

■ **First Book**

1319 F Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004-1155
202-393-1222

World Wide Web: <http://www.firstbook.org>

First Book is a national nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and provide children with their first, new books. The children supported by First Book include those who participate in literacy programs based in shelters for homeless and abused children, public housing programs, Head Start centers, migrant worker camps, libraries, and school-based programs. First Book's primary goal is to work through its national network of community-based Local Advisory Boards to provide children with an ongoing supply of free books. In 2001, First Book distributed more than seven million books to low-income children in over 700 communities around the country. The Public Broadcasting Service's (PBS) program, Ready To Learn, has obtained books through the First Book Program to distribute monthly to low-income families. First Book has developed a sustaining network of partnerships from the private and government sectors. The results of an independent study to determine the effectiveness of the First Book model is available on the Web at <http://www.firstbook.org/about/recordofsuccess.shtml>.

■ **The Lisa Libraries**

P.O. Box 430
Boiceville, NY 12412

World Wide Web: <http://www.lisalibraries.org/frames.html>

The Lisa Libraries donates new children's books and small libraries to organizations that work with kids in poor and under-served areas. Some of the libraries established have been at day-care centers, prison visiting areas for children of incarcerated parents, and after-school programs. The Lisa Libraries supplements under-filled shelves as well as provides books to many children who may never have owned a book before. In 2004, the Lisa Libraries contributed over 15,000 books to nonprofit organizations across the country. In general, the Lisa Libraries has a strong interest in supporting small, grass-roots organizations.

■ **Literacy Empowerment Foundation
Reading Recycling Project**

6323 Salem Park Circle
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
717-791-6210

World Wide Web: <http://www.colorcodedbooks.org/lef/ReadingRecycling.htm>

The Reading Recycling Project distributes new and gently used books free of charge for reading projects and other literacy programs. Recipients pay shipping, handling, and administrative costs. Reading Recycling Project books are delivered in sets of 100 books. Reading levels are available for kindergarten through 3rd grade. Book selection and quantity is dependent upon availability, so there is no guarantee of specific titles. Books are sorted and shipped as close to a project's needs as possible, with regard to reading level and topic. Reading Recycling Project books are available in a limited quantity on a first come, first served basis. Additional information about other projects of the Literacy Empowerment Foundation is available on the Web at <http://www.colorcodedbooks.org/lef/index.htm>.

■ **National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF)**

1320 Jamesville Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210
315-422-9121, ext. 345

World Wide Web: <http://www.nbsf.org>

NBSF provides books and materials to literacy projects throughout the United States that help parents and children in need. The resources for the NBSF are from New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy Worldwide. The NBSF is different from other “give away” programs that donate a book to a child or to an adult who may not be able to afford one. Primary consideration is given to supporting family literacy initiatives. English as a Second Language (ESL), adult basic educational programs, and projects that involve women-focused basic literacy or ESL programming will be considered for support. Books from the NBSF are actually used to provide men, women, and children with the literacy instruction they need to learn to read. More than \$1.6 million in books and materials has been distributed nationally by the NBSF since 1995. NBSF is a program of ProLiteracy Worldwide, recently formed by the merger of Laubach Literacy and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.

■ **Raising A Reader**

2744 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025-7118
866-266-5224

World Wide Web: <http://www.raisingareader.org>

Raising A Reader is a “take-home” book bag program, implemented through child care settings via a ready-to-use Classroom Kit. The program aims to encourage families in an easy, engaging, and nonintimidating manner to establish a regular reading routine at home that excites parents and their preschool children. It aims to engage parents of all types, including those with poor reading skills. Children in the program receive a colorful book bag with three books that they borrow for one week. Each week they return the books and receive new ones. The Raising A Reader program has been implemented in a variety of San Mateo County, California, child care centers. The program costs \$95 per child to start the program and \$20 per child to sustain the

program each year. Evaluation results are available on the Web at <http://www.raisingareader.org/research.html>.

■ **Raising Readers**

P.O. Box 17826
Portland, ME 04112
800-397-3263

World Wide Web: <http://www.raisingreaders.net>

The Raising Readers program, funded by the Libra Foundation, recognizes the importance of early childhood literacy and has been designed to reach Maine children by taking advantage of the strong relationship between parents, children, and their health care providers. Each newborn in Maine will receive a canvas bag with two new hardcover books from their primary care physician, and another new book at each regularly scheduled well-child visit through age 5. By that time, children will have a mini library of 12 special books to call their own. Raising Readers is the largest children's book program ever undertaken in a single State. When fully operational, more than 160,000 books will be given out each year at a total cost of approximately \$1 million. The program is administered through a joint effort between MaineHealth and Eastern Maine Health Care.

■ **Reach Out and Read (ROR)**

29 Mystic Avenue
Somerville, MA 02145
617-629-8042

World Wide Web: <http://www.reachoutandread.org>

ROR is a national pediatric early literacy program that began in 1989. ROR is a primary prevention program that incorporates early literacy into standard primary pediatric care. When young children come to clinics for routine health visits and immunizations, doctors and nurses prescribe books for their young patients. Research shows that ROR-type activities increase family literacy. ROR works with more than 1,800 clinics and hospitals, and with more than 22,000 primary care medical providers in 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. One-and-a-half million children are served annually; three million new books are given to families annually; and 14,000 physicians and nurses are trained in the ROR methodology. Collaborations are encouraged among ROR sites and other early childhood professionals. Information about research on the impact of ROR is available on the Web at http://www.reachoutandread.org/about_research.html.

■ **Read, Educate and Develop Youth (R.E.A.D.Y.) Program**

Michigan State Board of Education
608 West Allegan Street, P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3324

World Wide Web: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/1,1607,7-140-6525_6530_6568-33559--,00.html

In 1998 the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) developed the R.E.A.D.Y. program to make parents of young children aware of the rapid pace of development that occurs across the early years of a child's life. The main component of the program is the R.E.A.D.Y. kit, which contains materials for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. These include a quality children's

book; parent/child learning activities; a reminder magnet; a list of enjoyable age-appropriate books; a R.E.A.D.Y. brochure on the importance of engaging and reading to young children; a child development guide; the I Am Your Child development video tape; and a music cassette of nursery rhymes and children's favorite songs. Legislative funding through 2001 provided for the development, production and distribution of over 650,000 R.E.A.D.Y. kits to Michigan parents at no cost to the families. Through corporate support and creative funding, the R.E.A.D.Y. program continues to offer free distribution to Michigan's at-risk families. Distribution of these new kits takes place through programs offering services to low-income families. The program has now developed a national version of the kit.

■ **Reading is Fundamental (RIF)**

1825 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009
202-673-1522

World Wide Web: <http://www.rif.org>

RIF is a national nonprofit children's literacy organization. RIF develops and delivers child and family literacy programs that help prepare young children for reading and motivate school-age children to read regularly. Through a national network of teachers, parents, and community volunteers, RIF programs provide books and other literacy resources to children, at no cost to them or their families. RIF focuses its highest priority on the nation's neediest children, from birth to age 11. In 2000, through a national grassroots network of more than 310,000 community volunteers, RIF programs provided 14 million free, new books and other literacy resources to more than 4.3 million children. RIF serves children and families in every State, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories in programs that operate in schools, libraries, community centers, child care centers, Head Start and Even Start centers, hospitals, migrant worker camps, homeless shelters, and detention centers. In addition, RIF disseminates reading resources, including the videos, *Read with Me* and *Read with Me: The Parent-Teacher Partnership*, which were developed in collaboration with Head Start. *Gateways to Early Literacy* is a four-part video training series designed to help those who care for children in their homes to enrich and support children's early language and literacy development.

RIF supports programs to encourage parent involvement in their children's reading, including the *Shared Beginnings* curriculum, which helps young parents develop their children's early language and literacy skills, and *Family of Readers*, a family reading program.

■ **Sharing Books with Babies (SBB)**

Boston Medical Center
One Boston Medical Center Place, Maternity 5
Boston, MA 02118
617-414-4767

World Wide Web: <http://www.zerotothree.org/brainwonders/EarlyLiteracy/TRR.html>

SBB is a training and resource project for early care and education providers designed to promote early literacy development with infants, toddlers, and preschool children in early care and education settings. The SBB intervention model for early literacy promotion has three program components: specialized training for both home and center-based early care and education providers; developmentally and culturally appropriate children's books distributed at no cost; and information and support for early care and education providers and parents on

strategies which encourage early literacy development in their young children. SSB has a training manual and video targeted at early childhood instructors and trainers who train teachers and caregivers.

■ **The Soho Center's Child Care Literacy Project**

HC 6 Box 612

Madison, VA 22727

540-923-5012

World Wide Web: <http://www.child2000.org/literacy.htm>

The Soho Center's Child Care Literacy Project has distributed tens of thousands of dollars worth of quality children's books to home-based family child care providers. The program is free to participating family child care providers and gives priority of book distribution to providers who complete regulatory requirements and join the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Program. The project is currently being piloted in many counties in Virginia.

The National Child Care Information Center does not endorse any organization, publication or resource.